

located in an area of an opening in the joint housing (2) that is provided for passage of the joint pin (1), characterized in that an inside diameter of a cylindrical center part (4.1) of the metal ring (4) corresponds to an outside diameter of the bearing shell (3).

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) Ball-and-socket joint as claimed in claim 11 characterized in that the joint housing (2) in the area of the opening is provided with a ring groove (2.1) that is adapted to receive a ball-side end of a sealing bellows (5).

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Amended) Ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a joint pin having a joint ball;

a bearing shell for supporting the joint ball of the joint pin, the joint ball being rotatable and, to a limited extent, tiltable relative to the bearing shell;

a joint housing for supporting the bearing shell, the joint housing having an opening for receiving the bearing shell; and

a metal ring having a cylindrical portion, the cylindrical portion of the metal ring protruding from the opening of the joint housing and forming a passage receiving the bearing shell, an inside diameter of the metal ring comprising a guide surface for engaging and receiving an outside diameter of the bearing shell and for guiding the bearing shell into the joint housing, the metal ring also

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having a radially inwardly bent end segment for securing the bearing shell within the joint housing.

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.